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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|-----------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 09/529,201 | 05/18/2000 | David S Watson | 540-314 | 9245 |

7590

02/11/2002

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EXAMINER

DUONG, TAI V

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2871

DATE MAILED: 02/11/2002

18

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.
09/529,201

Applicant(s)

Watson

Examiner

TAI DUONG

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on Oct 23, 2001.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 33-95 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 53, 78, 88-92, 94, and 95 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 33-41, 43-45, ^{47, 48} 47, 48, 50-52, 54-77, 79-87, and 93 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 42, 46, and 49 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claims _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

- 14) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

- 15) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 16) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 17) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). 14
- 18) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 19) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 20) ☐ Other: _____

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The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

Claims 54-77, 79-87 and 93 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. There does not appear to be a written description of the claim limitations, recited in claims 54-77, 79-87 and 93, in the application as filed. For example, some of the limitations which are not supported in the specification are “applying a second humidity seal along the exposed edge over the first seal” (claim 54), “applying a second seal along the exposed edge, the second seal comprising silicone; wherein the silicone is substantially black-colored” (claim 56), “cutting the back plate along a second dimension resulting in an exposed upper surface portion of the back plate to which the second seal attaches” (claim 57), “applying a light mask over the second seal and up to an outer perimeter of a target display image area on the target display portion” (claim 60), “orienting the target display portion after the cutting step to prevent the image-generating medium from escaping from between the plates” (claim 62), “applying a silicone bead over an edge of the polarizer; and applying a third seal over the second seal, wherein the third seal extends on the upper surface of the front plate and up to an edge of a target display image area” (claim 64), “replacing an original TAB on the target display portion with a new TAB; electrically

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connecting the new TAB to corresponding electrical leads within the target display portion” (claim 67), “ a third seal positioned over the perimeter seal, the second seal, and the first and second silicon beads, said third seal extending onto the upper surface of the front plate up to an edge of a display image area thereon, and extending onto the lower surface of the back plate up to an outer edge of a display image area thereon” (claim 75), “ a plurality of films on an outer surface of at least one of the front and back plates; removing excess portions of the plurality films from the outer surface along the desired dimension” (claim 81), “the first seal comprises microspheres or beads mixed in the adhesive” (claim 85), and “ at least one ... a COG disposed along an outer edge of the display” (claim 93). The same issues are applied to the remaining claims of the above-mentioned claims.

It is noted that the “ well known or obvious” issue is not the same as the “support in the specification” issue.

The specification is objected to as failing to provide proper antecedent basis for the claimed subject matter. See 37 CFR 1.75(d)(1) and MPEP § 608.01(o). Correction of the following is required: the specification does not disclose the limitations of claims 54-77, 79-87 and 93, as mentioned in the above rejection.

Claim 33 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by JP No. 06-003633 cited by Applicant.

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Note the Abstract which identically discloses the claimed comprising the step of removing the excess area from the finished area of the LCD to obtain the desired area of the custom-made display.

Claims 33, 34, 40, 41, 50 and 52 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by An et al (US 5,851,411).

Note col. 6, lines 36-44, and Figs. 5-17 which identically discloses the claimed method comprising the step of removing the excess area from the finished area to obtain the desired area of the custom-made display. The step of reducing the viscosity of the liquid crystal is inherently included in the step of sealing the injection hole due to heating (see Yasutake et al'058; col. 4, lines 10-14).

Claims 33, 43, ^{47 48}~~47, 48~~ and 50 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Koyama et al (US 6,246,454).

Note Figs. 9 - 10, and col. 5, lines 13-35 which identically disclose the claimed method comprising the step of removing the excess area from the finished area to obtain the desired area of the custom-made display. As to claims 47 and 48, note Fig. 5.

Claims 33 and 43 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Inoue et al (US 5,854,664) .

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Note Fig. 8 and col. 10, lines 20-64 which identically disclose the claimed method comprising the step of removing the excess area from the finished area to obtain the desired area and the step of resealing the unsealed edges.

With respect to applicant's remarks regarding the recited feature "providing a *finished LCD* having a *finished display area* larger than said *desired area*" of claim 33, it is noted that during examination, the claims must be interpreted as broadly as their terms reasonably allow. This meant that the words of the claim must be given their plain meaning unless applicant has provided a clear definition in the specification. *In re Zletz*, 13 USPQ2d 1320, 1322 (Fed. Cir. 1989). The instant specification does not provide a clear definition of the terms "*finished LCD*", "*finished display area*", and "*desired area*". However, claim 33 does recite the structure of the *finished display*. The JP'633, An, Koyama and Inoue references all disclose the same structure of the *finished display* recited in claim 33. The terms "*finished display area*" and "*desired area*" are broadly interpreted by the examiner as "the surface (area) of the complete (finished) display", "desired surface (area)", respectively. As to the Yasutake reference on page 2 of the last Office action, the Yasutake reference is cited as evidence for the inherent feature "reducing the viscosity" obtained by heating in the sealing step.

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person

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having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 35-39, 41, 44, 45 and 51 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over An et al in view of Yasutake et al (US 4,094,058) .

Yasutake et al disclose that the cutting equipment and the method for cutting (removing step) will depend on upon the type of the substrate. Further, Yasutake et al disclose that "(I)f the substrate is glass, the cutting may be with a diamond saw, by heated wire, by scribing and other known methods of cutting glass. For other materials, suitable known cutting techniques may be employed" (col. 3, lines 42-52). Although An et al do not disclose the various cutting techniques as recited in claims 35-38, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art in view of Yasutake et al to employ the suitable known cutting techniques in the method of An et al for shorting the time of the cutting process and facilitating the cutting process of a particular type of substrates without damaging the finished display. As to claim 39, for the most common transmissive twisted nematic liquid crystal displays, two polarizers are required for operation and each one of the polarizers is attached to each of the plates, as is well-known in the art. As to claim 45, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to peel the polarizer before performing the removing step for saving the polarizer for later use As to claim 51, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to cut the plates along a direction at an oblique angle relative to the plates for the ease of the cutting process as compared to the perpendicular cutting.

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With respect to Applicant's remarks regarding Yasutake in the combination , the relevant portions of Yasutake that the examiner relies upon in the rejection are the various well known cutting techniques or processes (see last paragraph of page 3 and lines 1-2 of page 4 of the last Office action). Also, see the motivations why to apply different cutting techniques on page 4 , lines 5-6 and lines 11-13 , of the last Office action.

Claims 53, 78, 88-92, 94 and 95 are allowable.

Claims 42, 46, ~~47~~ and 49 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

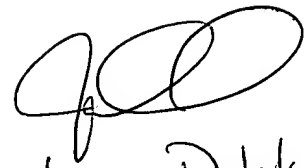
A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

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Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to Tai Duong at telephone number (703) 308-4873.

TVD

1/24/02



James Dudek
primary